

Director's Message
October 2010

SNAPSHOT: One Day in the Life of Montgomery County Public Libraries

On Tuesday, October 5, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), along with the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc., local Friends Chapters, the Library Advisory Committees and the Library Board, celebrated Snapshot Day: One Day in the Life of Montgomery County Public Libraries. Sponsored by the Maryland Library Association under the auspices of the American Library Association, Snapshot Day was an opportunity to collect statistics, pictures and stories about how Marylanders use and love their libraries.

The day began with a "VIP Read" at the Rockville Memorial Library featuring County Executive Isiah Leggett; Irene Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent for Libraries; Chief of Police, Tom Manger; Senator Jennie Forehand; and School Board member, Laura Berthiaume, who read their favorite books to a group of students from Christ Episcopal School and Beall Elementary School.

Throughout the day, Friends of the Library volunteers took pictures and collected postcards from the public about the value of libraries and the impact libraries have on their lives. Photos, statistics and stories collected will be shared with the public on the library website.

Special Observances in October

Teens are encouraged to read for the fun of it during Teen Read Week 2010, October 17-23. This year's theme, "Books with Beat @ your library," encourages teens to read a variety of materials, including poetry, audiobooks, books about music, etc.

Programs being presented during Teen Read Week include: **The BIG Read "What's Eating Edgar Allan Poe?"** a multi-media performance and general discussion of Poe's works at the Rockville Memorial Library on October 19 at 3:30 p.m. and Long Branch Library on October 20 at 4 p.m.

Also during the week of October 17, MCPL and the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. will celebrate National Friends of the Library Week. Through their fundraising efforts, The Friends of the Library provide programming support and help to provide service enhancements that benefit the residents of Montgomery County.

I encourage you to consider joining the Friends chapter in your community. "Friends do make a difference," and we thank our "Friends" for all of their hard work and continued support of MCPL.

Upcoming Events

The "Live Music @ your Library" Series returns in October for a second year with performances of swing, big band and jazz by the Night & Day Band and the traditional and modern blues sounds of the Al Coda Blues Project..

Author events include Susan Froetschel (*Royal Escape*) at Damascus Library on October 20, Reginald Harris (*10 Tongues*) at Marilyn J. Praisner Library on November 13 and Joanne Leedom-Ackerman (*The Dark Path to the River*) at the Davis Library on November 17.

You are invited to join the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, on October 27, at 7 p.m. for this year's celebration of *Read, Eat & Give*, featuring bestselling author and former New York Times journalist Jennifer 8. Lee.

All of these programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. Please visit our website -- www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library -- for a complete listing of library programs and events.

Public Libraries: A Great Return on Your Investment (ROI)

Public libraries offer a great return on investment to the taxpayers they serve. Libraries connect people to information, act as a focal point in the communities they serve and offer diverse resources. Dedicated librarians provide expert guidance to people of all ages and backgrounds. All of this is free of charge and easily accessible either in person or online.

“The average annual cost to the taxpayer for access to this wide range of resources is about \$31, the cost of one hardcover book.”¹ Our public libraries are indeed a great value!

¹ Rettig, Jim. “American Librarian Association/Advocating in a Tough Economy”; <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/toolkit/index.cfm> (accessed October 10, 2010).